

London WRG News



Mk2 trimming back the woodwork (Froghall, Ed Walker)

Issue 57 January 2004

From The Editor

Well I'm back in lab again after a rather excellent New Year camp, many thanks to Moose and Mk2 for leading it and Harri T for the great food. The camp was spent clearing scrub from the Mon and Brec Canal, mainly (while I was there) on 14 locks, which was the site of the 2002 Bonfire Bash; it's a far nicer area though when it is not raining!

New Year is traditionally a time of contemplation and we have quite a bit to look back on, 2003 has been an excellent year for London WRG, lots of new volunteers, very good digs and an excellent Cavalcade fund raising effort. Looking forward to 2004 we have a lot of TBA's in the dates list and to sort this out we have the AGM in only a few days time. This will be held in the Star Tavern, the new location for London WRG socials, further details on page 3 and if you want a say in what we are going to do then come along!

Apart from the AGM details this issue also contains dig reports from the Wilts and Berks dig and the KESCRG/LWRG Christmas dig, beer festival trip details and a booking form for the annual BCN Cleanup, which is being ably organised by Aileen Butler again.

See you at the AGM,

Ed Walker

London WRG website:
www.london.wrg.org.uk

Matt's Off Again!

Yep, after spending a few years back in London Matt Taylor headed overseas again on 29th December, apparently he is going to Thailand and Australia... again! I hope you will join me in wishing him a fun trip and he should be back with us in about a year.

Training

As the jobs that London WRG get asked to do are becoming more and more technical we are starting to rely on specialist skills that only a few people in the group have. So as a prelude to this years digs and the WRG Training Weekend can people think about what skills they would like to learn (Bricklaying? Levels? Site layout? First aid?) and we will see what can be arranged. We will also discuss this at the AGM but if you can't make it just drop me an e-mail (address on page 14).

Change of Address

Sally Nutt has moved from Clapham to Hammersmith, new address is:

21A Lena Gardens,
London.
W6 7PY

A new London WRG T-shirt order form is on page 12.

Business Cards

The long talked about London WRG business cards have finally been printed, the idea being that they can be simply be handed out and apart from the website address and contact details there is a list of digs. Obviously this list needs to be kept up to date so blank cards can be obtained from me and then overprinted with the dates list which is downloadable from the London WRG website. The website also has a more detailed recruitment leaflet which may be of use, all these documents can be found at:

http://london.wrg.org.uk/useful_docs.htm

The London WRG AGM and social will be held in “The Star Tavern” on Tuesday 20th January 2004 at around 19.30. Come along and get involved in the running of the group and help answer the perennial questions about where shall we go digging, what social events shall we run, what tools and equipment should we buy and who will volunteer (or be volunteered) to organise all this! More seriously we have a lot of things to sort out as we have a large number of “To Be Arranged” (TBA) digs this year as work is nearing completion at our current Dig Deep sites and the new projects are still in the planning stage.

London WRG AGM

The AGM will be held in the upstairs room of The Star, ignore the “Private Party” notice as I have booked the room for us. The pub is within easy walking distance of Victoria, Knightsbridge and Sloane Square stations but beware, finding the entrance to the mews is quite difficult! Find the German Embassy at the Eastern end of Chesham Place and just to the right is a white arch over a cobbled mews, go through the arch and along the mews (this is Belgrave Mews West) for about 50m and the pub is on the left just before another arch.

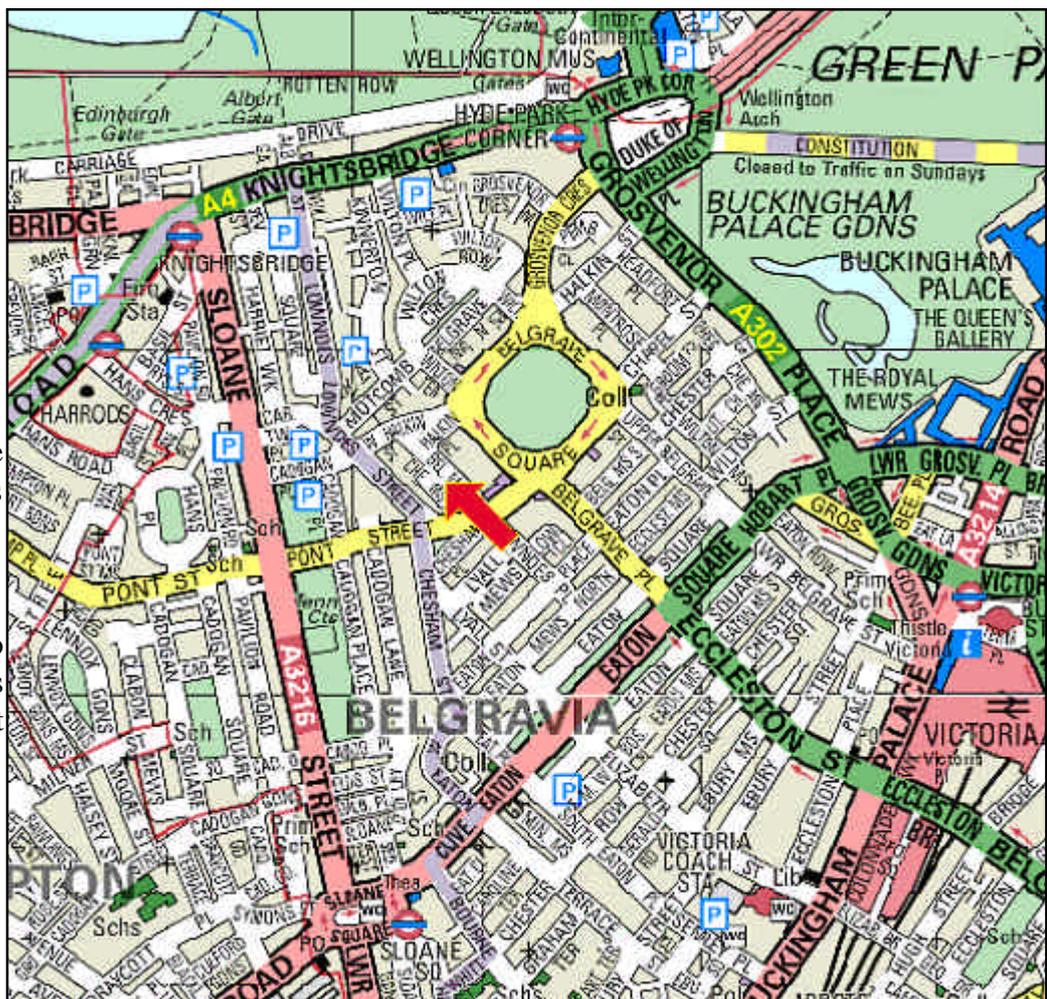


See you there!

Ed Walker

Right:
Map showing the Star Tavern's location.

Above Right:
Entrance to Belgrave Mews West from Pont Street.



Working Party Reports

Wilts & Berks Canal, Pewsham, 18-19th October 2003

So many wanted to travel by van on the Friday that it looked as if would be a seriously cosy trip to the accommodation at Melksham. Another van was not available and nobody wanted to go by car.

The situation was saved by Martin stoically offering to take his car and get the shopping, and by a couple of last minute withdrawals. Even so, cosy it certainly was with the kit, tools, personal gear and Rick packed in the rear and the rest of us taking up the rest of the van. The journey was fast and funny thanks to the accompanying repartee and banter helped along with jelly babies. Testosterone levels rose when a similar van full of women constantly drew alongside. Marcus was in his element!

Although instructions said meet at the nearest pub, that was found to be in nightclub mode, complete with bouncer, and we weren't, so we gathered at the watering hole next door, the King's Arms.

The accommodation was called the Rachel Fowler Centre. It sounded like a leisure centre but surprise! turned out to be an ex-United Reformed church and most of us slept in a large room with a very nice organ at one end, but may be that's the norm for some! A few others slept in a smaller room near an even smaller kitchen where the usual toast party was held on the Friday night.

An advance party went to site ages before the rest of us were up and without breakfasts. The van had to make two runs to and from site each time, as unfortunately we were 20-30 minutes away and had a stropky farmer and therefore restricted parking space to cope with. The concrete mixer also lived a van run away near Devizes and went to and fro in the van.

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The deeply rutted and muddy path to the canal had been transformed by gravel into a broad dry road. (but vehicles not allowed along it) All kit was walked down and over stiles too (see ref to farmer)

There were 3 main areas of work. The spillweir pipe, the paddle gear chamber and scrub-bashing.

The advance party were happy to see us arrive, or maybe it was their breakfast, albeit between bread. They had got to grips with the pipe, which instead of concrete was now orange plastic (easier to move) and in place. The ground needed building up above it to level, a brick arch built directly over it and brick work around it at the canal end. It actually needed a lot more than that but that was this weekend's job.

Marcus was happy raising clouds of dust as he flattened each layer with a vibrating machine (just up his street?) which looked a lot handier than a roller. Andy R seemed to be supervising and listening to the rugby (Saturday). Ed made mortar and other useful jobs and on the Sunday Nigel and Sally made an arch, working from each side of the pipe. Clever!

The bricking on the lock site was to make half an arch in the lock where the paddle sluice would be. Martin and Sal, his help on the Saturday, worked on this, while some of us at various times cleaned bricks. More clouds of dust.

Contractors had done some heavy clearing of the canal bed leaving a mess of vegetation to be burned. Scrub bashing went on all weekend. Unfortunately the scrub hit back and many were the scratches, runs of congealed blood and scars shown in the pub that night. More serious were the long thorns with which some trees defended themselves. Richard Cool was pierced in the leg to a depth of well over an inch and limped the weekend away. (ask to see the thorn!)

The main fire was so hot that it singed Moose's beard and an eyebrow. (Actually a rather neat trim Moose)

So bloody, dusty and sweaty we went back to the hall to wash in the washbasins. At least we had hot water!

London WRG News

A major disaster was running out of gas in BOTH cylinders and no garage being able to replace them in the size we wanted. Having 3 bottles was vetoed in favour of ensuring replacement as soon as one was emptied!

There were some new faces for the weekend. Edward Higgins joined us at Waterloo for the weekend, and Peter Platt and Sam and a 'local', Rob, from the Chippenham branch on Saturday. Hope to see some of you again!

Although the church was no longer used by the original sects it had a new congregation and so we had to be out and cleaned up by 10am on Sunday morning. But it was nice not to have too much to do when we got back from site on the Sunday. There was little food left over, everybody paid up and a small profit will buy the material for Sally's knife roll and another potato peeler.

Thanks to Sally and IC Andy for doing the least popular meal slot (breakfast) and to Martin and IC Andy (again!) for helping me prepare what I thought a simple meal (cottage pie) but with vegetable preparation that seemed to go on and on. (Hence the desire for another peeler!) Thanks too to the technical team Andy R, Marcus and Ed, and to all the others for coming.

Aileen Butler



Another pipe expertly laid by London WRG (Ed Walker)

Working Party Reports

And a thank you message from the local canal society:

Andy,

On behalf of the local W&B members, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the tremendous efforts you have made over the weekend.

The work on the spillweir has now safeguarded this important structure and will allow a safe route for the cycle path along the line of the former towpath. The brick arch over the entrance to the culvert pipe is particularly appealing. Thank you also for the work on the arch across the water inlet of bottom lock. This is now safe and the alignments are established for other brickies to follow. I understand some of your team were able to help Peter Smith at Double Bridge, a difficult site because of remoteness. Doug Harris has made arrangements for the return of our dumper to Pewsham which will ease the supply problems somewhat. The scrub clearing was most impressive and gives our local team encouragement to tackle the substantial job of clearing the mess left by the contractor.

I take the point that the accommodation at Melksham was a bit too far from the site and we will use the Calne Scout hall in preference, for future work parties.

So many thanks to all your team for everything you have done and I hope to see you all again in the not too distant future.

Best wishes,

Colin Fletcher

Working Party Reports

London WRG – KESCRG Christmas Party, 13-14th December 2003.

Yourrrrrr'e listening to the Navvying Today programme and it's one minute, 347 days and two millennia...
...after Christ's birth. Allegedly. But more on that later. First, here's some traffic.

There's a problem just off the M40 near Warwick, where tourists on the Warwick Castle to Shakespeare's Birthplace run are creating traffic jams as they stop to inspect an abandoned red Morris Minor Traveller, led to believe by it's obvious agedness (and it's less obvious knackered dynamo and burnt-out battery) that it did in fact belong to The Bard himself. Meanwhile, in Leek, Staffordshire, a number of stationary cars are boxed-in to the car park of Millward Hall for the weekend by an improbably well-parked green trailer. Back to Brian Redshirt in the studio.

Thank you. Now over to Froghall Basin on the Caldon Canal for a report on the restoration project there.

* * *

We're here in our N-reg red radio minibus broadcasting live from the site of this fascinating historic transport interchange, beside the impressive Froghall lime kilns. We're interviewing Rupert and Alison Smedley, who are co-ordinating efforts from their mobile canal restoration support unit, disguised for heritage planning reasons as a blue Morris Minor Traveller.

"Yes, having escaped putting most of London WRG and KESCRG up in our fleet of interesting narrowboats, we've been able to turn our attention to the basin, and in particular some major scrub-bashing of the almost park-like site beside it, chamber clearance of the lock out to the canal, and finishing off the restoration of one of the tramway sidings as a heritage feature."

That's great Alison, but what's with the chappie in blue overalls wielding a chainsaw?

"Oh, that's Tenko. He's a whiz with it, isn't he? You'll only just manage to say the word 'tree' before he's cut it down and sectioned it for firewood. We'll pile it up over by the car park so that if it's still there tomorrow, locals with unfeasibly large trailers can take it away."

Thanks, Rupert, but how do you manage to feed this dedicated and hard-working group of impressively turned-out workers, and, er, the guy in the virtually non-existent shorts toting a digital camera?

"Well, with several Curver boxes of lunch, if it ever turns up."



Eddie and Tenko in a "My log is bigger than yours" contest (Andi Kewley)

Welcome to the lunchtime cookery show, Ready, Steady, Cater!. Today star chefs Brian & Maureen, Ellie and helpers various will create a three-course Christmas-effect dinner complete with two kinds of soup, three kinds of meat, two puddings, cheese and biscuits, home-made red wine and beautifully decorated tables, using only this youth club kitchen, enormous and unwieldy green cooker and Transitful of ingredients. But first, here's a quick and simple lunch recipe. You will need one huge pile of sandwich fillings, anything left over from brekky, some soup, several metal catering trays and a Peugeot 205...

* * *

Meanwhile, let's see what's going on in Carenza's trench. Ooh, what's that, Ed?

"It's the bit of this old tramway siding that was left unrestored (ie. half-rotten) as part of the heritage feature being created. Thing is, the plan is to put rails down and display a typical wagon of the period to aid the public's interpretation of the site. So we need to put a horizontal beam across the end of the siding in order to fit some buffers. And this vertical member here on the left is not suitable, as part of it has rotted away. If it's anything like the one on the right, which has been replaced, it'll be an old railway sleeper and come out, without a fight, to be replaced by this nice fresh one here."



How many WRGies does it take to start an engine?
(Andi Kewley)

Working Party Reports

Several hours later...

"Well, having found that it is in fact square in section, goes down nearly half a metre below ground level and probably wouldn't even come out with a Tirfor, we've decided to chop out the rotten bit (nice clean cut at the front with the Stihl saw, much hacking at the rest) and graft in a cut-down railway sleeper. This involves chopping out much of the pointing Mk2 did this morning."

* * *

Welcome to Tube Idol, in which only the very pithiest attempts at dressing up as London Underground stations will go through to win a selection of unspecified prizes. We have some really talented people here, all of whom want their big break in public transport impersonation...

"The panel of judges, from the very height of the waterway recovery movement, have made their decision, having first turned to drink at the sight of Welsh Alan dressed as a fishnet-stockinged school-girl. Stars of the night have included the black tie and ballgown of Steve Davis and Ruth as Bond Street, Bob as both Royal Oak and (through use of his ever-present pocket blowtorch) Burnt Oak, Dr. Liz as Green Park, complete with joggers and a pond full of frogs, Richard Cool as Angel, with white wings both delicate and large, and Liz Wilson as Hatton Cross. Yes, it's as simple as getting a hat and a cross in this game, but how will they all fare in Dr. Liz and Martin's floor-sized, London WRG t-shirt based, Underground-style, pub map game? And who will survive the Tube Quiz, in which they will be asked to name the only station which contains none of the letters from the word 'mackerel'?"

* * *

Working Party Reports

Welcome to 'Sunday Breakfast' and to those of you who haven't got much further than sitting up in your sleeping bags, staring blearily into space and wondering why Bob hasn't brought the teapot and some mugs upstairs. And now, music video, featuring the Tim Lewis Prodigy with 'Firestopper', filmed on location at Froghall, and of course, in a London Underground tunnel.

* * *

Meanwhile, back in Carenza's trench...

"Well, hours of digging has meant that it isn't actually possible to tell the difference between Bob, MKP and Sleepy Dave, who are uniformly covered in black goo. Oh, no, tell a lie, that one's MKP. Amazingly, you can still see the virtually non-existent shorts."

Thanks Marcus. But what are you planning to do with the wood with which you have filled the entire back end of your Land Rover?

"Back to Rupert and Alison's, methinks."

The big story today is that the site looks really impressive now, "huge scrub clearance" seeming like an understatement and "an endless supply of really black goo" seeming even more like a living nightmare. Elanor and Eddie have started the kit-washing using pumped canal water whilst the pointing crew have finally sorted the

three brick kits back into the appropriate bags. Anything else goes into the Really Useful Things Bag. Oh, and in other news, the Americans have finally found Saddam Hussein, alone in a hidey-hole in his hometown, and it only took 600 of them to take him.

* * *

It's Sunday evening. You're watching Restoration Songs of Praise...

- Thanks be to Rupert & Alison for sorting out an excellent accomm and recommending an equally ace pub for Friday night
- Thanks be to the catering team for yet another unbelievably wonderful Christmassy banquet
- Thanks be to people various for organising real ale, and, er, homebrewed "Surprise"
- Thanks be to Tenko for seeming to be cutting trees/stumps/railway sleepers in at least three places at any one time
- Thanks be to Bungle for going to bed early and thus discouraging Mk2 from starting a sing-song session
- Thanks be to all the volunteers who actually made site on Sunday and dug, chopped, burnt, bashed and pointed their way through hangovers to leave the site transformed.

Oh, and it was St. John's Wood, by the way.

Mk2



An angelic Richard Cool? (Ed Walker)

Surviving long motorway journeys in the minibus

Recent media reports that not only long-haul tourist-class airline passengers are prone to the potentially lethal combination of deep vein thrombosis and utter boredom has led us here at London WRG News to investigate what WRG are doing about the problem.

First piece of news is that from the next camps season, all passenger-carrying WRG vehicles will be fitted with the following set of song lyrics (in a handy wipe-clean travel case). Whilst they are obviously rather lightweight, everyone will know the tune and in fact may well have used it with its original lyrics, in school minibuses on long journeys. The words remind the bored traveller what fun digs and camps are, once you get to them.

We All Live in a Red Transit Van

Words Mk2

Tune *Yellow Submarine*, by the Beatles

In a pub in London town
I met a man
who saved canals
and he told me of his life
and all about
his dirty pals

So we drove down the M4
until we hit the H&G*
and we dug
for evermore
stopping hourly
for cups of tea

CH:

We all live in red Transit van
a red Transit van
a red Transit van
We all live in red Transit van
a red Transit van
a red Transit van

Now our friends are all aboard
Many of more of them are in the pub
and the cook
is in the hall
stirring up
some tasty grub

London WRG News

Minibus Sing-song

Rpt CH

As we dig this life of ease
every one of us has all we need
Tools and plant
bricks, mud and tea
t-shirts, trailers and RFB

Rpt CH

* Do not even *think* of writing in to point out the obvious leap of imagination/navigation required here!

Also, a new game was invented on the London WRG – KESCRG Christmas Party dig: ‘Places you can drive to, with names which sound a bit like bits of kit’. Early entries (from Mk2, Smudge, Nina, Andi, Jean and Aileen) included:

- Trowell Services
- Stone
- Brixton
- Matlock
- Barrow in Furness
- Towcester

And stretching your imagination, road atlas and credibility even further could generate such pearls as:

- Pick-Axminster
- Bromley-by-Bowsaw
- Mortarlake
- Herasford
- Bradshaw on Avon

I could go on...

Mk2

London WRG Awards

NOMINATIONS & RESULTS OF 2003 LONDON WRG AWARDS

PIPELAYING

Sal – For almost backfilling the trench with a dumper at Deepcut

MK2 – For attempting to saw the end off a pipe by following a spiral pattern *WINNER + Pipe*

Ed – For nearly sinking the spoil barge with the excavator

Sleepy Dave & Richard – For staying at their posts despite the water pouring in and the pump not working

Steve & Liz – For abandoning theirs when the tircor cable snapped.

DRIVING

Sal – For confounding all by getting the hydraulic teaspoon stuck in 3” of pea gravel

Tim – For getting lost in the Wootton Bassett diversion

Matt – Teaching Nigel Macarena, or was it Excavator Instruction Without Excavator

Sal – For locking herself inside the cab of an excavator

Ed's flatmate – For handing the van keys into the police station *WINNER + number plate*

LAME EXCUSE

Andi – For being in Wales or Colchester or somewhere other than Waterloo

Moose – For trying to loose his mobile phone but being thwarted by kind passers by

Tim – For locking himself out of his car whilst the engine was still running

Sleepy Dave – Because he always gets a nomination

Martin – For attaining employment *WINNER + Crutch*

CATERING

Ed – For bringing the group into disrepute by donating the Coffee Cafeteria

Matt – For making sure both Tim & Lesley purchased enough sausages & bacon

Ed – For stealing Martins 'killer' garlic bread crown

Jenny Wilson – For being the first to brave the catering kit after winter, and forcing us to purchase new utensils

Sal – For services to kitchen safety, in donating the knife roll *WINNER + Wooden Spoon*

LOOKS LIKE A BOB'S HIT (award for enthusiasm)

Ed – For proving chivalry is not dead in lwrgr attempting to rescue Sal from the mud

Marcus – For stump pulling with beastie to become lwrgrs 'automotive Phil Cardy'

Moose – For single handedly mooring up the work barge using a grappling hook at the BCN and proving he's not our James Bond *WINNER*

Ed – For tracking the machine using a headtorch

Richard – For nadgering the piling hammer with a sledgehammer

DRINKING PROBLEM

Adrian – For driving us to a good pub just down the road with chilled cloudy beer

Gilly & James – For getting us thrown out of yet another London pub *WINNER + Lipton Tea*

Ed – For packing his kit each weekend with equal quantities of Port, Beer & clothing

RECRUITMENT

Ed – One

Andi – Two *WINNER + bottle*

Matt – One

2003 NEW RECRUITS

Nerina Julian, Jean Simms, Andy Roberts, Gillian Macey *Each received Bottles*

Andy Richardson *WINNER + Beard*

New Jon G, Elanor, Suzie – acknowledged & to be considered for 2004

Matt Taylor

We've all been there, you're up to your tits in mud, it's raining and the camp leader comes over and says, "Can you just..." Well here is the handy London WRG guide to what the leader actually means!

"The water is only welly depth" - no it's willy depth!

"Can you move a few bricks over there?" - somewhere else tomorrow and back again the day after.

"I need a few people to rake the campsite for an afternoon" - half the camp and 3 days later....

"I know this great pub just down the road" - down the road, over the hill and in the next county

"We just need a few bricks cleaned" - pointing at a large pallet farm

"The bonfire needs to be small and controlled" - one Tim controlled raging inferno later.

"It'll just be a short day on site today" - 12h later and the mixer has gone on strike.

"You have to move a few tons of ballast, but don't worry there's an excavator" - the excavator will be doing something else though, go get your shovel

"The weather will clear up" - by 6:30pm Sunday

"Anyone fancy a swift half?" - we should notify the local brewery.

"Oh what a beautiful morning!" - it's 6.30am and Bob's arrived.

"Whose round is it?" - It's your round.

"The accommodation has showers" - there's a bucket and a hose in the car park

"People pay good money for this at a health farm" - It's more muddy on site than you ever thought possible.

"This mortar's too dry" - How else am I going to explain this crappy bit of brickwork??"

"Oh, don't forget that the shift patterns on dumpers can vary" - oh, I see you've just driven the dumper into the hole, instead of away from it.

"All we have to do is dig up the towpath, expose the old pipe-end, drop the next pipe in, bed, backfill, cover and re-instate the towpath" - what we have to do is find out how the heck to get a big digger with a wide bucket to do the job of a small digger

What They Say & What They Mean!

with a narrow bucket, block off the towpath, fend off irate cyclists, joggers, old grippers with dogs and itinerant weirdos who have ignored the towpath closure, dig up the towpath, hunt for hours for the old pipe-end, find you do not have sufficient swinging room to drop the next pipe in, manhandle the pipe in, find that the dumper is the wrong side of the excavator to fetch the sand, hold up A-road traffic to move the dumper, collect sand, bed, realise dumper is the wrong side of the excavator to fetch the backfill, hold up A-road traffic to move the dumper, realise excavator is now parked on backfill, move excavator, collect backfill, backfill, cover and re-instate the towpath using the one bucketful of road scrapings the canal society has got left which of course is the wrong side of the excavator from the dumper. And all before we lose the light.

Ed Walker

Richard "Cool" Worthington

Liz Wilson

Mark "Mk2" Richardson



"Trust me, it'll all be OK" - (Andi Kewley, Froghall)

Bits & Pieces

The new London WRG T-shirts have been selling like hotcakes and (as witnessed at the reunion and KESCRG/LWRG Christmas Party) are definitely the “in” piece of WRG fashion for the year, so if you haven’t ordered your T-shirt yet then why not do it now? Just cut out the handy form below and send it with a cheque to Sally Nutt (note new address) and your new London WRG T-shirt will be handed over at the next dig/social. Just to confuse matters even more there is a wide variety of styles and colours available, so be individualistic!

T-Shirts (Front: Design) : £8

Sweatshirts (Front: Design) : £15

Long Sleeved T-Shirts (Front: Design) : £10

Polo Shirts (Back: Design, Front: Small logo) : £13

Colours: Red, Black, Navy, Green, Grey, Purple
(T-Shirt or Sweatshirt Only). (Design White)

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Dance For Tools

As part of the WRG “Right Tool for the Right Job” Appeal a Barn Dance is being organised by our very own Helen “Bushbaby” Gardner. It will feature a live local band “Tumbledown Dick,” there will be a cash bar, raffle and other games. Tickets are £10 each and this includes a fish and chip supper. The dance will be on Saturday 28th February at Benson Parish Hall, Oxfordshire (half-way between Reading and Oxford), doors open 7.00 pm, music from 7.30 pm and it will finish at 11.30pm. To order your tickets send an SAE to “WRG Barn dance, Dr and Mr Williamson, 79 Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HR”. Please enclose a cheque made payable to “I. Williamson”, plus a contact telephone number and state if you need a non-fish meal (probably vegetarian pancake rolls). Although this event clashes with the Basingstoke Canal dig, it’s less than an hour’s drive from where we are staying so if people are interested we can take a minibus load there from the dig. For further details contact Helen on 07989-425346 or e-mail:

helen_gardner@hotmail.com

What?	Size?	Colour?	No?	Cost?
Total Cost:				

Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Delivery Address: _____

(Orders will be distributed at Socials/Digs where possible)

Please make cheques payable to Sally Nutt
Please send completed form to Sally Nutt, LWRG T-Shirts,
21A Lena Gardens, London W6 7PY (07764 902863)

Battersea Beer Festival

Extra Social – Battersea Beer Festival

The Battersea Beer Festival is upon us again and London WRG will be turning up *en masse* on Thursday 12th February 2004, meeting inside the hall from about 7pm.

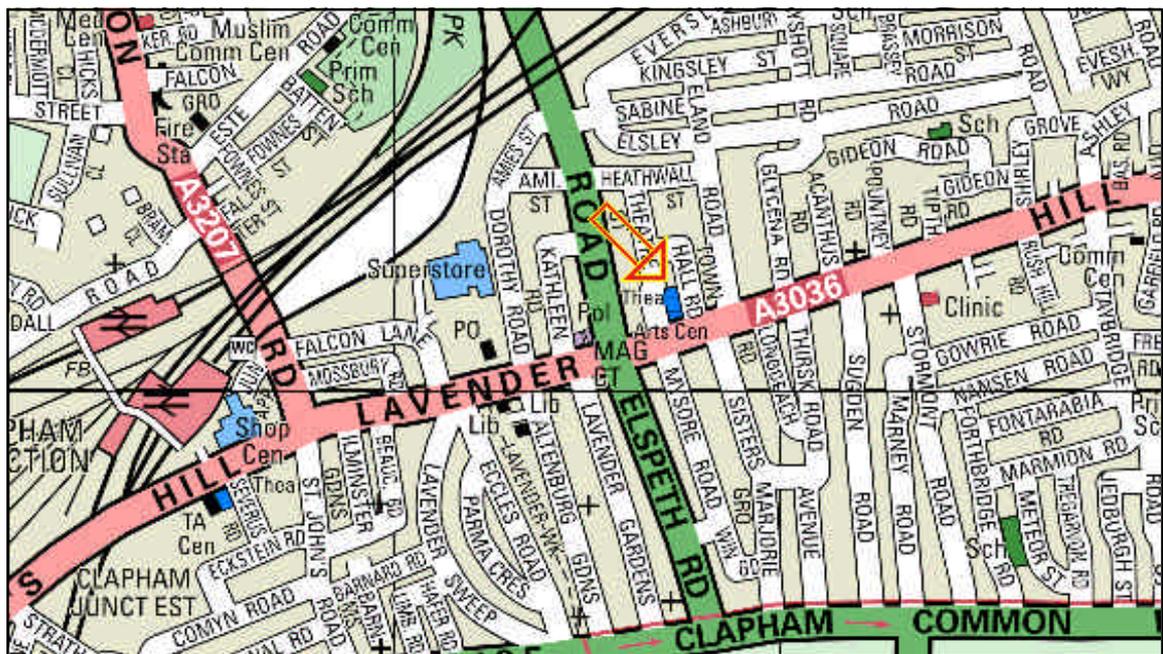
The fest itself is at the Battersea Grand Hall (behind the Battersea Arts Centre) on Lavender hill (map below). Nearest station is Clapham Junction, as this is south of the river there are no underground stations nearby but the over ground service from Victoria or Waterloo is very good and there are a lot of buses.

Entry to the fest will be £3 (£2 for CAMRA members), glass deposit and beer (cider and perry as well) obviously will be on top of this. Food will also be available. This is quite a small fest as they go but it always has at least 100 different types of real ale on and the food was very good last year, there also seems to be more seating and space in general than other festivals.

Further details are available at <http://beerfest.org/>



Ed Walker



London WRG Dates List

For up to date information check the London WRG web pages:

www.london.wrg.org.uk

Working Parties: Transport available Friday evening in the London WRG minibus; meet by the post box outside Costa Coffee at Waterloo station; normally at 19:00 but may be earlier or later depending on distance. Contact Tim, Martin or Lesley for details.

Date	Location	Organiser
7-8/2/04	Hereford & Gloucester Canal, Oxenhall	Tim Lewis
28-29/2/04	Dig Deep on the Basingtoke Canal	Andi Kewley
20-21/3/04	BCN Cleanup	Aileen Butler
17-18/4/04	Hereford & Gloucester Canal	Rick Ansell
15-16/5/04	Dig Deep on the Wey & Arun	TBA
5-6/6/04	Lichfield Canal	TBA
3-4/7/04	TBA	TBA
31/7-1/8/04	TBA	TBA
11-12/9/04	TBA	TBA
2-3/10/04	TBA	TBA
23-24/10/04	TBA	TBA

Note: Digs marked “Dig Deep” are on projects where work is being co-ordinated under the Dig Deep Initiative, a scheme involving ourselves and four other mobile groups (Essex WRG, NWPG, KESCRG and WRG BITM).

Social Gatherings: Tuesday night, normally 11 days before each dig i.e., 27th January, 17th February, 9th March etc. at the **Star Tavern** (upstairs room) Belgrave Mews West, behind German Embassy on Chesham Place, from about 19.30 till 23.00.

Other Events:

20/1/04	London WRG AGM, The Star Tavern	-
12/2/04	Extra Social, Battersea Beer Festival	Ed Walker
13/5/04	Canalway Cavalcade, Little Venice	-
8-9/5/04	WRG Training Weekend (TBC)	Centrally Booked
28-30/8/04	National Waterways Festival, Burton-on-Trent	-

Who to contact:

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BCN Cleanup 2004: Wyrley & Essington, 20-21st March 2004

Yes, it's coming up to that time of year again!

The annual BCN Cleanup weekend takes place on 20th-21st March 2004, and once again WRG, The local branches of The Inland Waterways Association, The Birmingham Canal Navigations Society and British Waterways will be getting together to see how many shopping trolleys, bikes, armchairs, bits of old car and anything else we can drag out of the murky waters of the Birmingham Canal Navigations in a single weekend.

The site for this year's event has just been confirmed as the Wyrley & Essington Canal, heading from Horseley Fields Junction, Wolverhampton, and heading eastwards as far as we can get. The local British Waterways will as usual be supporting us by providing rubbish skips, work-boats, grappling hooks and litter-pickers... and a canal with a large supply of crap to heave out of it.

Accommodation will be in the BW premises in central Wolverhampton, within about half a mile of the nearest part of the work site, we hope to arrange some kind of entertainment for the

BCN Cleanup

Saturday night. Full directions will be sent out to anyone who books, and will be put on the main WRG website.

Aileen Butler will be the London WRG organiser and main WRG contact for the weekend. She will no doubt be looking for team-leaders on site, people to help with booking-in etc, so if you can help then please contact her, e-mail address is:

aileen.butler@btopenworld.com

More details will be provided soon, but in the meantime, if you want to help to keep the BCN canals open please complete the application form below and send it to Head Office. London WRG will be running a minibus from Waterloo (7pm) to this event as usual

Martin Ludgate

waterway recovery group

in association with BCNS, BW and IWA

I would like to attend the **2004 National Canal Cleanup** on **Mar 20-21** on the **BCN**

Forename: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

_____ e-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Any special dietary requirements? _____

I require accommodation **Friday night / Saturday night / both nights**

I enclose payment of £ _____ (pay cheques to 'WRG') for food (cost is £8 for whole weekend, based on £1.50 for lunch each day, £1.50 for breakfast each day and £2 for Saturday evening meal)

Do you suffer from any illness, such as epilepsy or diabetes, about which we should know, or are you receiving treatment or under medical supervision for any condition? **YES / NO** (If yes, please attach details)

In the unlikely event that you should be injured, who should we contact?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Signed (parent's signature also required if aged under 18): _____

Please send this form to **National Cleanup bookings, WRG, PO Box 114, Rickmansworth WD3 1ZY**



Definitely the easy way to kit form a tree! (Ed Walker, Froghall)



Waiting for a bus, WRG style! (Moose, Wilts & Berks, October 2003)